

14
GREAT NEWS
From Hertford-Shire.

Being a particular Account of a Late

ENGAGEMENT

Between A

New Gang of Highway-Men;

And several of

The Country People, near Barnet:

WITH

A True Relation of the Killing Three of the
Countrymen, and several Horses; and of their
Committing two great Robberies near *Hertford*.
As also, of the Countries Pursuing them, and
the manner of the Rogues escape that Day.

Likewise the Taking one of them since, that is
supposed to be the Chief, and of his Commit-
ment to Goal.

27. Nov. 1691.

Licensed according to Order.

Hertford-Shire and the adjacent Counties, having for some time past been In-
fested with the Robberies of several New Highway-Men, on *Saturday* the
14 *Instant* being Market Day at *Hertford*, about the Hours of Six and
Seven in the Morning of the said Day, four of this Gang, all well Mounted
and Armed, set upon three Men that were going to *Hertford* Market, in a Lane cal-
led *London-Lane*, being the direct Road to the Town; from these People they took
away about the Value of Twenty Pounds in Money, &c. Within an hour after this,
they had the Impudence to set upon two other Country-Men in a narrow Lane that
leads between *Cheffon* and *North-hall* Common, just by a small Cottage House: while
they were rifling one of the Country-men, the other quitted his Horse, and made to
the Cottage, where he convey'd 6*l*. of the Money he had with him, leaving himself
only 40*s*. the Rogues soon entered the House after him; and, after they had taken

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taken the 20th they miserably beat and abused the Country-man for running away, they took away from the former of them, the value of 20 l. in Money; then they run both the Country-mens Horses through, to prevent their being Pursued, and made the best of their way over *North-hall Common*, towards *St. Alban's*; but, by this time, the Persons that they first Robb'd, had raised the Country, and were in Pursuit of them; and, in a Lane between *Sir Thomas Pope Blunt's* and *Barnet*, the Country-men got up with the Robbers; at which time, the latter made a stand (their Horses being fatigued) and placing themselves in a breast, they pulled out about Seven pair of Pocket-Pistols each, and stuck them round their broad Waste-Belts, putting one in each Hand, and then bid the Country defiance, declaring they would never yield as long as their Powder and Bullets lasted, and that they would live and dye by each other; which Resolutions so startled the Country-men (notwithstanding they were much superior in number) that they retired into a Farmers-yard near adjacent, from which place the Rogues dar'd them out, and, soon after, made into the Yard after them; which the Country-men perceiving, all that were on Foot run into the House, and others quitted their Horses and left them, only Four or Five bravely stood it, and opposed them; among which were *Sir Thomas Pope Blunt's* Cook, and a Farmer, Two as Stout Men as any in the Country, but both of them were soon Killed: The Robbers received the Cooks first Fire, from which one of them (as he said) was shot in the Legg, and then one of the Rogues ride up close to him, and shot him Dead, they had shot several times at the Farmer and mist him, during which time he had knockt one of them from his Horse, but another of them soon came to his Assistance, and shot the Farmer Dead, by a wound in the Head, the other three made into the House as soon as they saw the Cook drop, after this the High-way Men stay'd near half an hour, changing two of their Horses, for two of the Country Mens that they liked better, changing the Saddles and Bridles, &c.

After which they shot and stabb'd six of the Country-Mens Horses, and their own two they left in the Yard, to prevent being further pursued, and so marched off, taking their way across the Country, towards *Uxbridge* and *Harrow* on the Hill, but the Country about being more Alarm'd, and fresh Horses coming in; they were still pursued, one of the pursuers being better mounted then the rest, and over-riding his companions, the Rogue took the advantage, and in a Lane leading to *Wale* common, shot him dead; They pass'd within two Miles of *Uxbridge*, where was Quarter'd a Troop of Horse, that were going for *Flanders*, who took the Alarm and were ready mounted, the Officers offering the Town, that if they would engage to make good, whatever Horses should happen to be either kill'd or spoil'd, the Troop should disperse themselves in parties, and pursue the High-way Men, but the Town refused: From near *Harrow* they walked their Horses a Foot pace, defying the Country-Men all along as they went, and so over one of the *Hemsworth-Heaths*, near which place they met a Gentleman very well mounted, whose Horse they took away and left their own, which they ran through; Night coming on, they took the advantage of it, and got clear away, Riding through *Kingstone* Town, and so in *Surry*; and since by all the Intelligence Major *Richardson* can get, they made the best of their way towards *West Chester*, and so for *Ireland*; the said Major using all diligence imaginable to take them, having sent to most parts of *England*.

Since this Robbery, one *Wistal* a Butcher whose Wife kept an Inn in that Country, and a Noted High-way-Man, has been taken and secured in *Northampton* Goal, who is generally thought to be one of the Four concerned in the Robbery above said, upon which Major *Richardson* sent two persons from *Newgate* to view him.

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